

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Hartmaier (US 6,304,753)

1 (previously presented): A method for registering a mobile communication device to a service comprising:

receiving a device identifier for the mobile communication device via a communication network, wherein the device identifier is correlated with information concerning what services the mobile communication device has a technical capability to access; (col 4, lines 43-53)

receiving, via the network, a request for a service to be provided to the mobile communication device; (col 2, lines 35-37);
(col 5, lines 23-30)

accessing a device capabilities database that includes the information, using the received device identifier; (col 3, lines 21-29);

determining, based on the received device identifier and the corresponding information, whether the mobile communication device is capable of receiving the requested service; and (col 4, lines 13-16)

when the mobile communication device is determined to be capable of receiving the requested service, setting up the requested service for the mobile communication device. (col 4, lines 51-59).

2 (canceled)

~ 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the requested service comprises a billing plan for communications using the mobile communication device.

4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the device capabilities database stores information about whether the mobile communication device is a multi-network analog/digital phone and the mobile communication device is determined to be capable of

receiving the service when the device capabilities database indicates that the mobile communications device is a multi-network phone.

5 (original): The method of claim 4 wherein the requested service comprises a billing plan for communications using the mobile communication device.

6 (previously presented): A method for registering a mobile communication device to a service, comprising:

Same as cl. 1

receiving a device attribute for the mobile communication device via a communication network, wherein the device attribute is correlated with information concerning the technical capability of the mobile communication device to receive a requested service;

receiving, via the network, a request for a service to be provided to the mobile communication device;

accessing an attribute database that includes the information, using the received device attribute;

determining, based on the received device attribute and the corresponding information, whether the mobile communication device is capable of receiving the requested service; and

when the mobile communication device is determined to be capable of receiving the requested service, setting up the requested service for the mobile communication device.

7 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein,

said device attribute comprises an electronic serial number (ESN) associated with the device, said attribute database including an indication of whether a device having a particular ESN is a multi-network phone; and

the mobile communication device is permitted access to the requested service if there is an indication in the attribute database that the device is a multi-network phone.

8 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein,

 said device attribute includes a home location identifier to be associated with the mobile communication device;

 said attribute database including an indication of which home location identifiers correspond to geographic areas in which the service is receivable; and

 the mobile communication device is permitted access to the requested service if there is an indication in the attribute database that the home location of the mobile communication device corresponds to a geographic area in which the service is receivable.

C | 9 (withdrawn): A method for provisioning a special billing service to a mobile communication subscriber whereby the subscriber receives a special billing rate for all calls irrespective of the location of a mobile communication device at the time of call initiation, the method comprising:

 maintaining a device identifier database in which an identifier for a given mobile communication device has associated therewith a plurality of device capabilities;

 maintaining an eligibility area database which includes an indication of whether a given location is eligible for a particular billing plan;

 receiving an attempt to register for the special billing rate, the request including a device identifier;

 checking the device identifier database to determine whether the mobile communication device has the capability to receive the service for the special billing rate;

 receiving a home location identifier associated with the subscriber requesting the special billing rate;

 checking the eligibility area database to determine whether the mobile communication subscriber has a home location eligible for the special billing rate; and

 registering the mobile communication device to the special billing rate when the mobile communication device has the capability to receive the service and the

mobile communication subscriber has a home location eligible for the special billing rate.

10 (previously presented): A method for ascertaining whether to register a mobile communication device to a given service, the method comprising:

applying a device identifier to an equipment capabilities filter, the equipment capabilities filter comprising information concerning what services the device has a technical capability to access;

applying a home location identifier to a geographic eligibility filter; and

registering the mobile communication device to the given service if the device identifier and home location identifier pass through the equipment capabilities filter and geographic eligibility filter, respectively.

11 (previously presented): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of executable instructions to perform a method for registering a mobile communication device to a service, the method comprising:

receiving a device identifier for the mobile communication device via a communication network, wherein the device identifier is correlated with information concerning what services the mobile communication device has a technical capability to access;

receiving, via the network, a request for a service to be provided to the mobile communication device;

accessing a device capabilities database that includes the information, using the received device identifier;

determining, based on the received device identifier and the corresponding information, whether the mobile communication device is capable of receiving the requested service; and

when the mobile communication device is determined to be capable of receiving the requested service, setting up the requested service for the mobile communication device.

12 (previously presented): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of executable instructions to perform a method for registering a mobile communications device to a service, the method comprising:

receiving a device attribute for the mobile communication device via a communication network, wherein the device attribute is correlated with information concerning the technical capability of the mobile communication device to receive a requested service;

receiving, via the network, a request for a service to be provided to the mobile communication device;

accessing an attribute database that includes the information, using the received device attribute;

determining, based on the received device attribute and the corresponding information, whether the mobile communication device is capable of receiving the requested service; and

when the mobile communication device is determined to be capable of receiving the requested service, setting up the requested service for the mobile communication device.

13 (previously presented): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of executable instructions to perform a method for ascertaining whether to register a mobile communication device to a given service, the method comprising:

applying a device identifier to an equipment capabilities filter, the equipment capabilities filter comprising information concerning what services the device has a technical capability to access;

applying a home location identifier to a geographic eligibility filter; and

registering the mobile communication device to the given service if the device identifier and home location identifier pass through the equipment capabilities filter and geographic eligibility filter, respectively.

14-15 (canceled)

16 (new): A method for registering a mobile communication device to a service comprising:

receiving a device identifier for the mobile communication device via a communication network, wherein the device identifier is correlated with information concerning what services the mobile communication device has a technical capability to access;

receiving, via the network, a request for a service to be provided to the mobile communication device;

accessing a device capabilities database that includes the information, using the received device identifier;

determining, based on the received device identifier and the corresponding information, whether the mobile communication device is capable of receiving the requested service;

when the mobile communication device is determined to be capable of receiving the requested service, setting up the requested service for the mobile communication device; and

when it is determined that the communication device is not capable of receiving the requested service, proposing an alternative service to the party that requested service, wherein the alternative service is compatible with the mobile communication device.

17 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein the requested service comprises a billing plan for communications using the mobile communication device.

18 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein the device capabilities database stores information about whether the mobile communication device is a multi-network phone and the mobile communication device is determined to be capable of receiving the service when the device capabilities database indicates that the mobile communications device is a multi-network phone.

19 (new): The method of claim 18, wherein the requested service comprises a billing plan for communications using the mobile communication device.

20 (new): A method for registering a mobile communication device to a service, comprising:

receiving a device attribute for the mobile communication device via a communication network, wherein the device attribute is correlated with information concerning the technical capability of the mobile communication device to receive a requested service;

receiving, via the network, a request for a service to be provided to the mobile communication device;

accessing an attribute database that includes the information, using the received device attribute;

determining, based on the received device attribute and the corresponding information, whether the mobile communication device is capable of receiving the requested service;

when the mobile communication device is determined to be capable of receiving the requested service, setting up the requested service for the mobile communication device; and

when it is determined that the communication device is not capable of receiving the requested service, proposing an alternative service to the party that requested service, wherein the alternative service is compatible with the mobile communication device.

21 (new): The method of claim 20, wherein:

said device attribute comprises an electronic serial number (ESN) associated with the device, said attribute database including an indication of whether a device having a particular ESN is a multi-network phone; and

the mobile communication device is permitted access to the requested service if there is an indication in the attribute database that the device is a multi-network phone.

22 (new): The method of claim 20, wherein:

 said device attribute includes a home location identifier to be associated with the mobile communication device;

 said attribute database including an indication of which home location identifiers correspond to geographic areas in which the service is receivable; and

 the mobile communication device is permitted access to the requested service if there is an indication in the attribute database that the home location of the mobile communication device corresponds to a geographic area in which the service is receivable.

C | 23 (new): A method for registering a subscriber as a receiver of a special billing rate for wireless services from a wireless services provider, comprising:

 (i) receiving a request for the special billing rate from the subscriber;

 (ii) determining whether a wireless communication device associated with the subscriber has a technical capability to be used in a way that the special billing rate is appropriate for the subscriber;

 (iii) determining whether the subscriber is eligible for receiving the special billing rate, based at least in part on whether a home location of the subscriber is within a footprint of the wireless services provider; and

 (iv) if a result of the determinations of both (ii) and (iii) is in the affirmative, registering the subscriber as a receiver of the special billing rate, where the special billing rate is such that all calls either made by or received by the subscriber are billed at the same rate whether or not the wireless communication device is within the wireless services provider's footprint or outside the wireless services provider's footprint.

24 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein the technical capability includes a capability to be used with both analog and digital networks.

25 (new): The method of claim 23, further comprising:

if the result of the determinations of either (ii) or (iii) is not in the affirmative, terminating an attempt by the subscriber to be registered as a receiver of the special billing rate.

26 (new): The method of claim 23, further comprising:

if the result of the determinations of either (ii) or (iii) is not in the affirmative, determining whether the subscriber is able to receive an alternative service.

27 (new): A system for registering a subscriber as a receiver of a special billing rate for wireless services from a wireless services provider, comprising:

a device capabilities database storing information concerning the technical capabilities of a wireless communication device associated with a subscriber;

an eligibility database storing information concerning the eligibility of the subscriber to receive a special billing rate for wireless services from a wireless service provider; and

a computer processor coupled to the device capabilities database and the eligibility database, and configured to execute software to:

(i) receive a request for a special billing rate from the subscriber;

(ii) access the device capabilities database to determine whether the wireless communication device associated with the subscriber has a technical capability to be used in a way that the special billing rate is appropriate for the subscriber;

(iii) access the eligibility database to determine whether the subscriber is eligible for receiving the special billing rate, based at least in part on whether a home location of the subscriber is within a footprint of the wireless services provider; and

(iv) if the result of the determinations of both (ii) and (iii) is in the affirmative, registering the subscriber as a receiver of the special billing rate, where the special billing rate is such that all calls either made by or received by the subscriber are billed at the same rate whether or not the wireless communication device is within the wireless services provider's footprint or outside the wireless services provider's footprint.

28 (new): The system of claim 27, wherein the information in the device capabilities database includes an electronic serial number of the wireless communication device associated with an indication of its technical capabilities.

29 (new): The system of claim 27, wherein the information in the eligibility database includes a location identifier associated with various billing plans for which a location identified by the location identifier is eligible.

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30 (new): The system of claim 27, wherein the device capabilities database, the eligibility database, and the computer processor are linked by a local area network.

31 (new): The system of claim 27, further comprising a user interface device configured to receive and display data from the device capabilities database and the eligibility database.
